



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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**CALIFORNIA STORMWATER QUALITY
ASSOCIATION RELEASES REVISED STATE BMP
HANDBOOKS**

*Premier New Development and Redevelopment Handbook unveiled at
workshops*

San Diego -- April 11, 2003 - The California Stormwater Quality Task Association (CASQA) is ready to unveil its updated California State Best Management Practices (BMP) handbooks at a series of workshops to be held in downtown San Diego this coming week. The four manuals include a premier volume of the New Development and Redevelopment Handbook and updated versions of the 10-year-old Construction Activity, Municipal, and Industrial handbooks.

"The original three handbooks were a bible to us from 1993 until now, but experts in the field noticed that we'd learned so much more that wasn't included in the handbooks—including BMPs for new development and redevelopment," said Karen Henry, one of CASQA's four officers and the deputy director of the City of San Diego Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program. "We didn't remove anything from the handbooks, but we made things easier to read, used simpler language, included new drawings."

BMP requirements for new development and redevelopment weren't finalized until December 2002, so the guidelines included in the newest handbook are the most current available. "It is very timely," Henry said. "The New Development and Redevelopment Handbook will provide all the necessary information to engineers and planners."

The BMP Handbooks were designed to provide to engineers, builders, agencies, industry and construction representatives, school districts, and other groups the guidelines for reducing and eliminating storm water pollution. These guidelines, called Best Management Practices, provide an easy-to-comprehend framework for compliance with the current permits and other water quality regulations, and they define steps that businesses and industries may take to keep the storm water conveyance system clean.

The total cost for handbook production was \$355,000. The State Water Quality Control Board provided \$75,000 to CASQA for the revisions, and municipalities in the region—called copermitees—scraped together the remaining \$280,000 needed to complete the project.

The funds helped pay for CASQA's consultant, who was hired to make revision recommendations and to help develop the fourth handbook.

"This was an expensive—but necessary—project," said Scott Taylor, chairperson for revisions and vice president of RBF Consulting. "We now have the changes to meet the permit requirements."

Soon--and for the first time--the handbooks will be available online at CASQA's web site, www.cleanwatertaskforce.com. Users will be able to download the entire manual or just the pages they need—at no charge. For those who'd prefer print copies of the handbooks, they can pick them up with paid registration at the Revised California State BMP Handbooks workshops. Each workshop will provide an overview of and one copy of its corresponding handbook.

"This web-based format speaks volumes for us—now the information is out there for everyone to access," Henry said, adding that the web-based format allows CASQA to maintain handbook currency and to make yearly updates. "We can now make timely corrections on a case-by-case basis. We don't have to wait for another printing."

According to Henry, who served on the handbooks' technical review committee, these handbooks offer the most comprehensive information available and are crucial to helping reduce storm water pollution in San Diego—and to helping San Diego serve as a national model on this issue.

The Municipal Handbook workshop and training session will be held April 16 from 9 a.m. to noon and will be followed by the Industrial Handbook workshop and training session, held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Construction Activity Handbook workshop and training session will be held April 17 from 9 a.m. to noon and will be followed by the New Development and Redevelopment workshop and training session, held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All workshops will be held in the San Diego Concourse's Copper room, located at 202 C St. in downtown San Diego. Sessions are \$120 each if registration is completed prior to the workshop date and are \$140 each with at-the-door registration.

For more information about CASQA or the California State BMP Handbooks and workshops, please visit www.cleanwatertaskforce.org or call (619) 525-8647.

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